

Remarks

Claims 1-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter encompassed by all canceled claims in one or more continuation applications. Claims 24-57 have been added herein to expand the embodiments of the elected subject matter. Support for the amendments to the claims can be found throughout the specification as filed.

In particular, support for new claims 24-57 may be found at Table 1, page 276, row 7 as indicated as “Gene No. 7;” page 308, paragraph [0748] to page 310, paragraph [0752] (for signal sequences); page 310, paragraph [0753] to page 318, paragraph [0777] (for polypeptide variants); page 320, paragraph [0787] (for ELISA and Western blot); page 327, paragraph [0802] (for antibodies); page 329, paragraph [0806], page 360, paragraph [0895] to pages 361-362, paragraph [0899], and page 385, paragraph [0981] to page 386, paragraph [0985] (for antibody diagnostics); page 364, paragraph [0911] to page 366, paragraph [0917] (for heterologous peptides); Examples 5-8 beginning on page 540 (for methods of isolating expressed polypeptide). Thus, no new matter has been introduced.

Upon entry of the present amendment, claims 24-57 will be pending.

Provisional Election With Traverse

Pursuant to Paper No. 0404, mailed April 5, 2004, the Examiner has separated the claimed invention into nine (9) groups. The Examiner contends that the inventions are independent and/or distinct, each from the other, and thus, has required an election under 35 U.S.C. § 121. *See*, Paper No. 0404, pages 2-3. The Examiner has further required election of a single polynucleotide or polypeptide. *See*, Paper No. 0404, page 2, last paragraph.

In response, Applicants elect the invention of Group II, represented by original claim 11 (canceled herein), now represented by new claims 24-57; drawn to the polypeptide corresponding to SEQ ID NO:145 and clone ID HFVAB79.

Conclusion

Applicants respectfully request that the above-made amendments and remarks be entered and made of record in the file history of the instant application. If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 08-3425.

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Respectfully submitted,

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